



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Southern District of Indiana*

*10 West Market Street
Suite 2100
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3048*

*(317)226-6333
TDD (317)226-5438*

*FAX NUMBERS:
Criminal (317)226-6125
Administration (317)226-5176
Civil (317)226-5027
FLU (317) 226-6133
OCDETF (317)226-5953*

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CONTACT PERSON:

Claudia Cummings
(317) 229-2477 office
(317) 590-7928 mobile

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FIFTEEN INDICTED IN METHAMPHETAMINE AND
MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY**
Indictment Unsealed

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced the indictment of fifteen individuals engaged in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and marijuana throughout Southwestern Indiana. The indictment was unsealed today in U.S. District Court. Federal, state and local law enforcement officers from the region participated in the execution of arrest warrants related to the investigation in Washington, Vincennes and Evansville, Indiana. The indictment followed an investigation that began in the fall of 2003 by the Evansville office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the

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Vincennes Police Department, the Daviess County Sheriffs Department, the Indiana State Police, the Evansville office of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives, and the Evansville Vanderburgh County Joint Drug Task Force.

The indictment charges the defendants with conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute and to distribute in excess of five hundred grams of methamphetamine and in excess of one hundred kilograms of marijuana. Conspirators trafficked multiple kilograms of high purity methamphetamine and marijuana from Mexico and California to southwestern Indiana, often in vehicles with hidden compartments, and the drugs were sold for cash or firearms. The individuals charged in the indictment are:

- Alfonso Agauyo Amaral, 24, of Washington, in custody
- Francisco Ramos Ramirez, 55, of Washington, fugitive
- Joshua Luque Ramos, 22, of Washington, in custody
- Pablo Echeverria, 35, of Washington, in custody
- Josue Babines Pimentel, 32, of Washington, in custody
- Amy Babines, 34, of Washington, summonsed to appear May 17
- Jessica Fox, 21, of Washington, summonsed to appear May 17
- Alicia Holden, 20, of Washington, in custody
- Thomas Riker, 20, of Vincennes, summonsed to appear May 17
- Bobbi Jo Adams, 23, Vincennes, summonsed to appear May 17
- Dustin Taylor, 22, of Vincennes, fugitive

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- Dale Robinson, Jr., 20, of Vincennes, in custody
- Jimmy Don Hartley, 45, of Princeton, fugitive
- George Cobb, 34, of Evansville, in custody
- Larry Duvall, 42, of Evansville, released on pretrial supervision

The indictment also charges defendants Amaral, Echeverria, Robinson, Taylor, Duvall and Hartley with various counts of possession with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine. Defendants Babines Pimentel and Amaral are also charged with possession of firearms during and in relation to the commission of the drug trafficking crimes. Defendant Holden is additionally charged with maintaining a residence, located at 614 Vantrees in Washington, for the storage and distribution of methamphetamine. Defendants Babines Pimentel, Amy Babines, Hartley and Cobb are also charged with using a communication facilities, namely telephones, to facilitate the commission of the drug trafficking offenses.

Count Two of the indictment charges defendant Robinson with being a felon in possession of explosives. The charge stems from a traffic stop of Robinson in Vincennes on November 23, 2002. Robinson was in possession of methamphetamine and marijuana at the time of the stop, and, in an attempt to escape arrest, the defendant threw the explosives at the Knox County Sheriff's Deputy who stopped his vehicle.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Matthew P. Brookman, who is prosecuting the case for the government, the defendants, if convicted, face a maximum possible prison sentence of life imprisonment and a maximum possible fine of \$4,000,000.

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Initial hearings will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Evansville for those defendants in custody.

An indictment is an allegation only, and all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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